

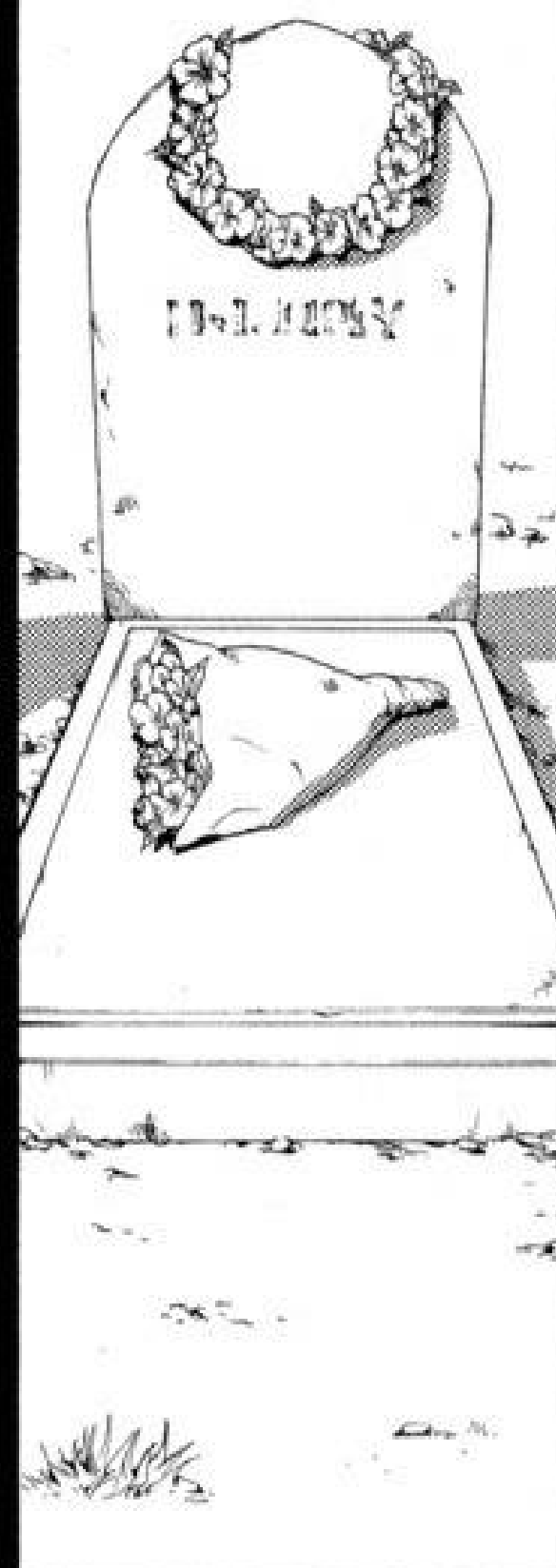


HE WAS MY MENTOR. I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR HIM.

IT WAS NOTHING.

...FOR HAVING TO RELY ON YOU TO HELP ME WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MY FATHER'S FUNERAL...

I'M SORRY, MR. MUSTANG ...

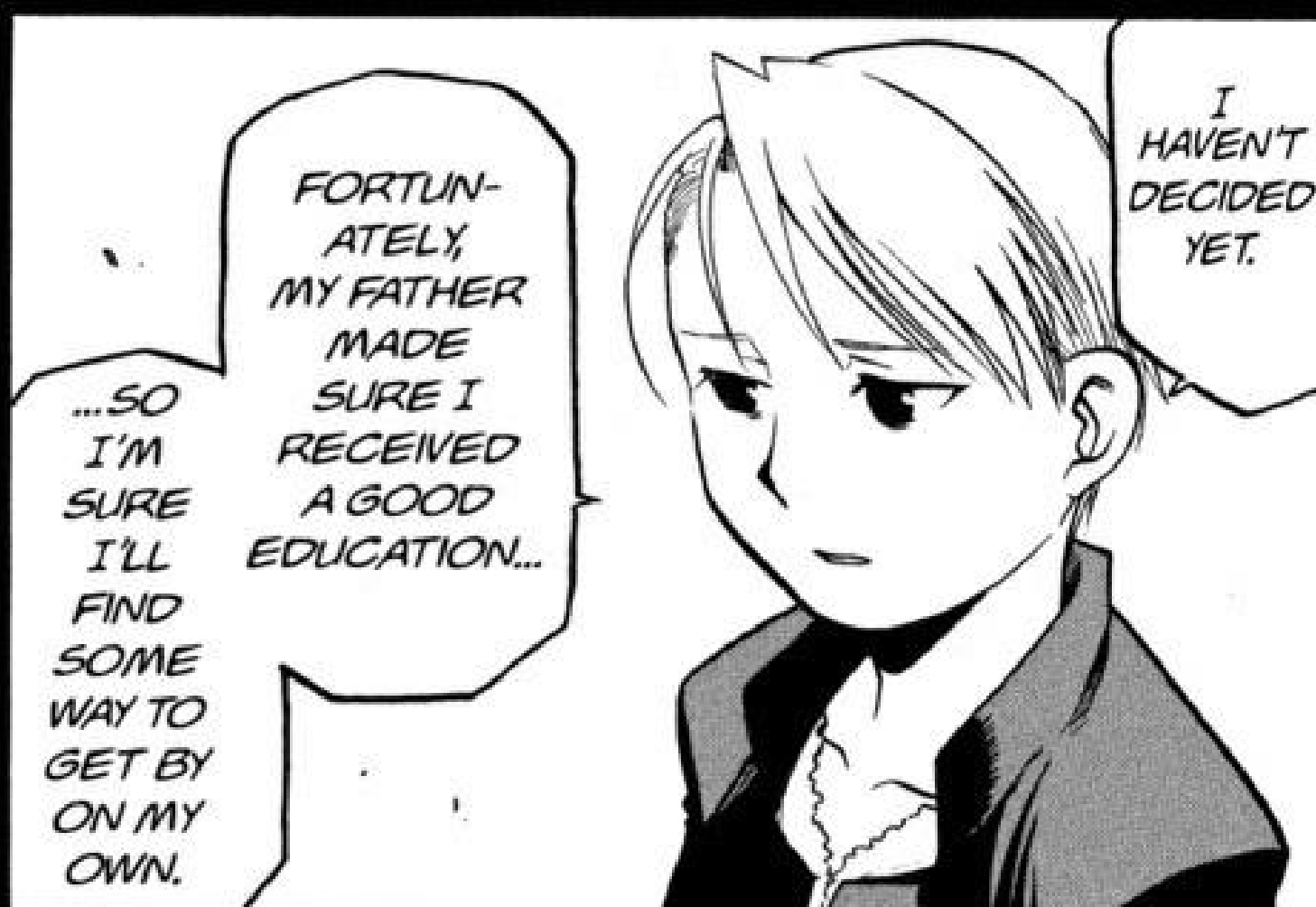


MY MOTHER DIED A LONG TIME AGO.

BOTH MY MOTHER AND FATHER WERE ESTRANGED FROM THEIR FAMILIES... THEY NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT MY RELATIVES.



...DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER FAMILY?



...SO I'M SURE I'LL FIND SOME WAY TO GET BY ON MY OWN.

FORTUNATELY, MY FATHER MADE SURE I RECEIVED A GOOD EDUCATION...

I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.

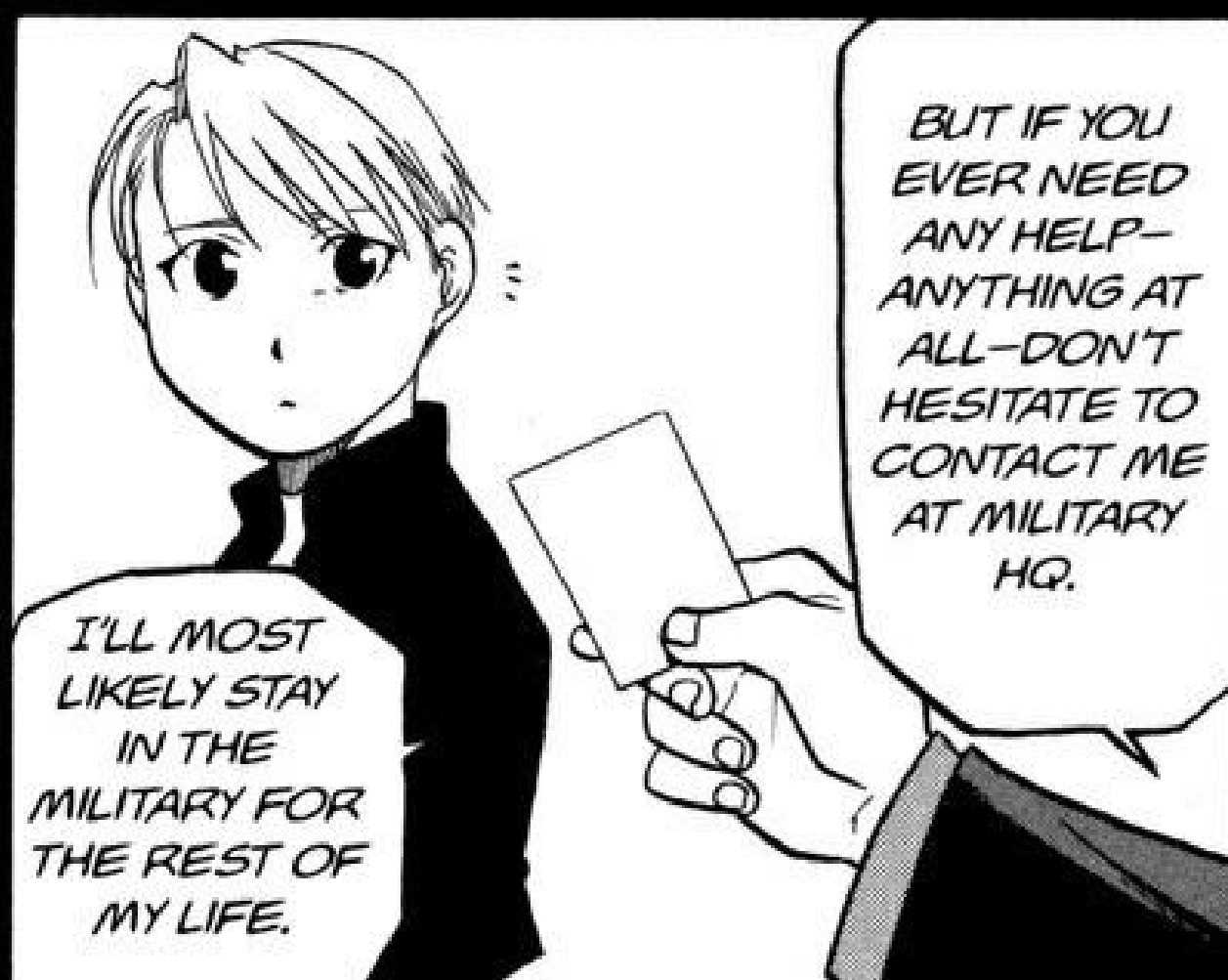


WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?



FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE...?

UH HUH.



I'LL MOST LIKELY STAY IN THE MILITARY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

BUT IF YOU EVER NEED ANY HELP—ANYTHING AT ALL—DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME AT MILITARY HQ.



...ALL RIGHT.



IN THIS PROFESSION, YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL WIND UP DEAD IN A DITCH SOMEWHERE, LIKE A PIECE OF GARBAGE.

I CAN'T PROMISE THAT.



PLEASE DON'T GET KILLED.

DON'T JINX ME...



...THAT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY.

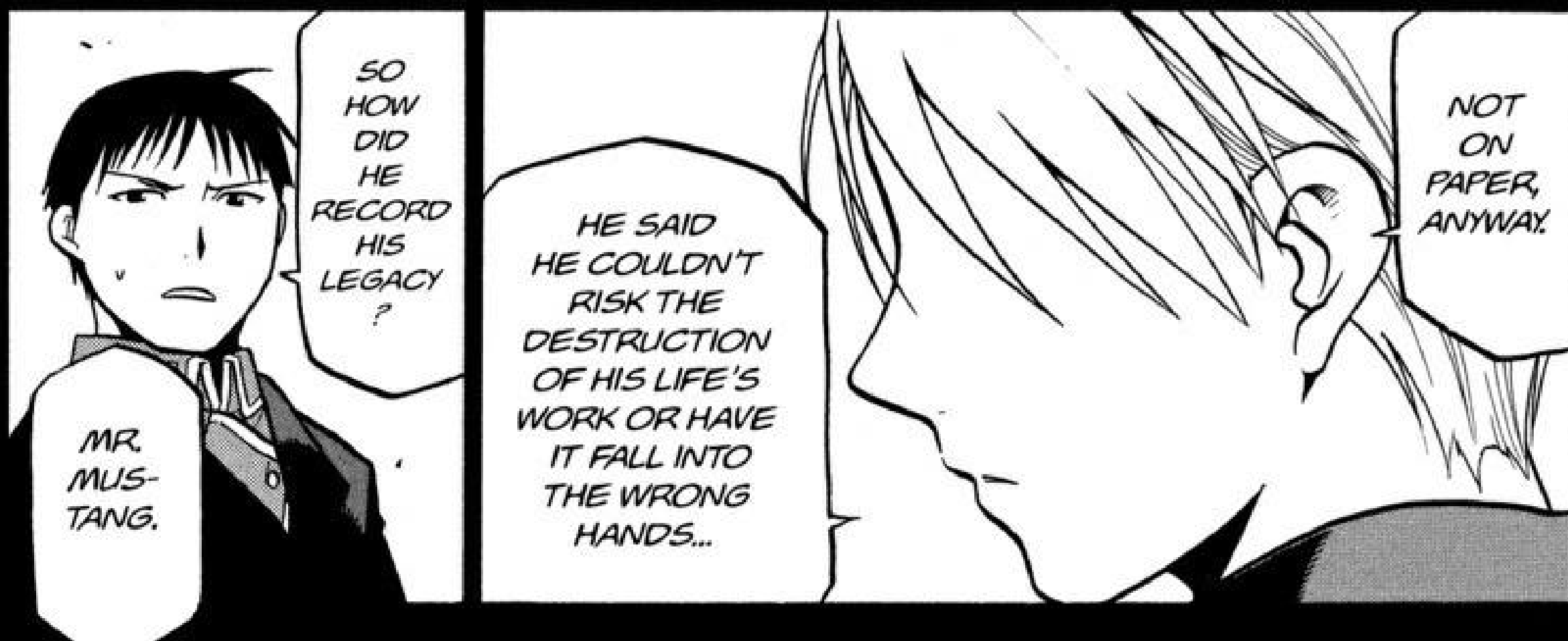
BUT IF I CAN HELP STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATION OF THIS COUNTRY AND PROTECT ITS PEOPLE WITH MY HANDS...





NO.

SO THE
MASTER
WROTE HIS
SECRETS
DOWN
AFTER ALL...

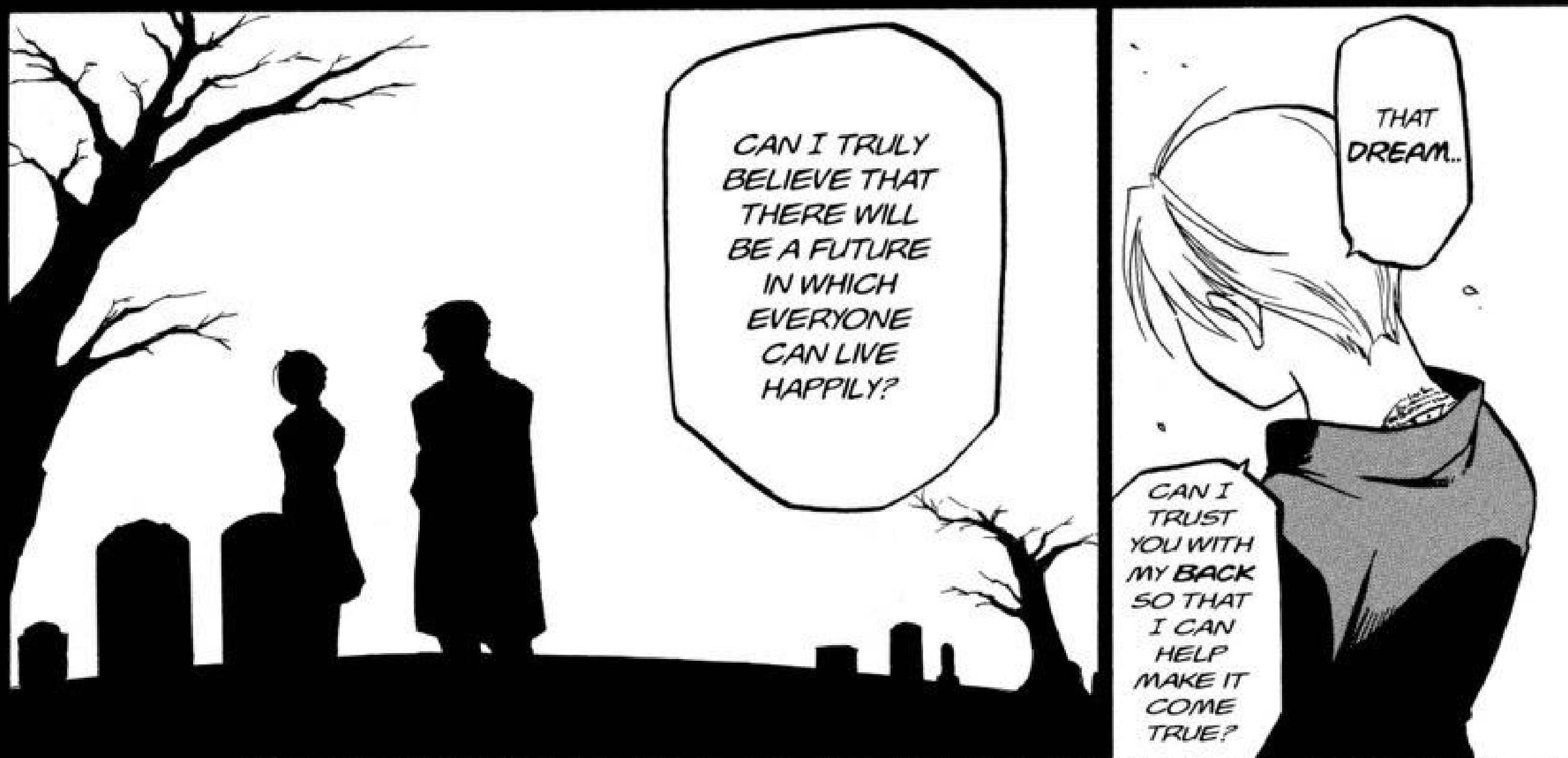


SO
HOW
DID
HE
RECORD
HIS
LEGACY
?

HE SAID
HE COULDN'T
RISK THE
DESTRUCTION
OF HIS LIFE'S
WORK OR HAVE
IT FALL INTO
THE WRONG
HANDS...

NOT
ON
PAPER,
ANYWAY.

MR.
MUS-
TANG.



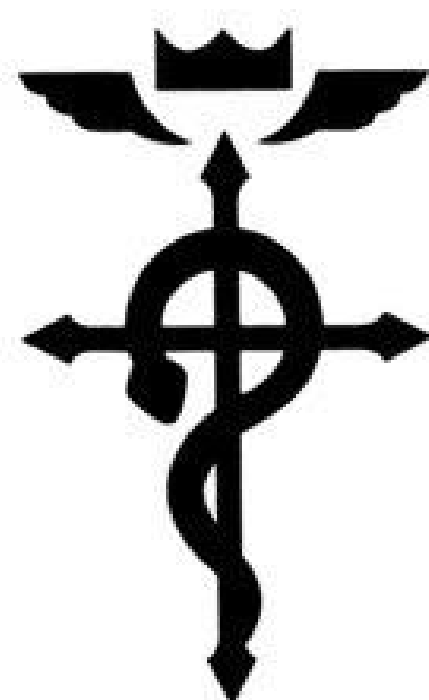
CAN I TRULY
BELIEVE THAT
THERE WILL
BE A FUTURE
IN WHICH
EVERYONE
CAN LIVE
HAPPILY?

THAT
DREAM...

CAN I
TRUST
YOU WITH
MY BACK
SO THAT
I CAN
HELP
MAKE IT
COME
TRUE?



THERE
WAS A
TIME
WHEN I
BELIEVED
THAT...



Chapter 60

In the Absence Of God

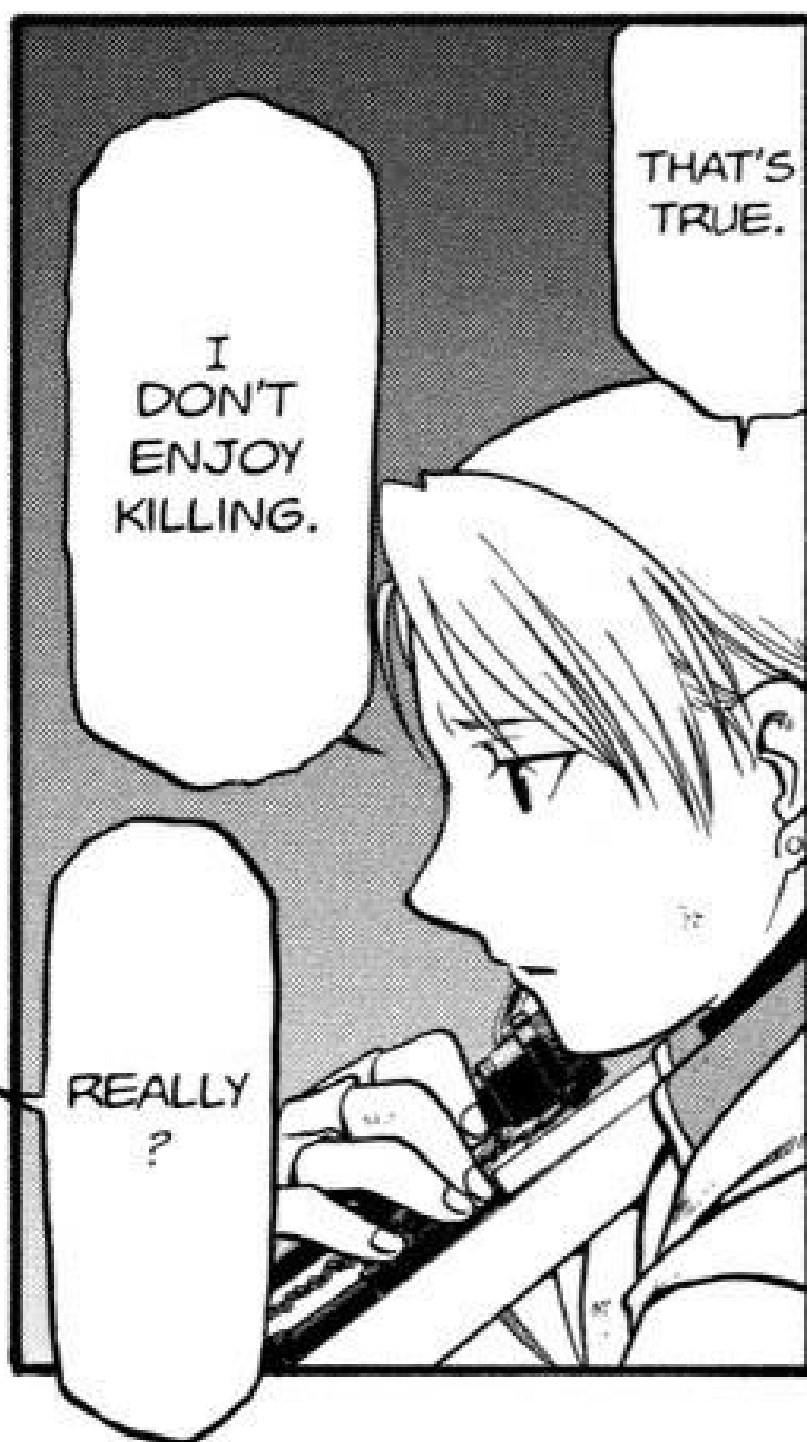


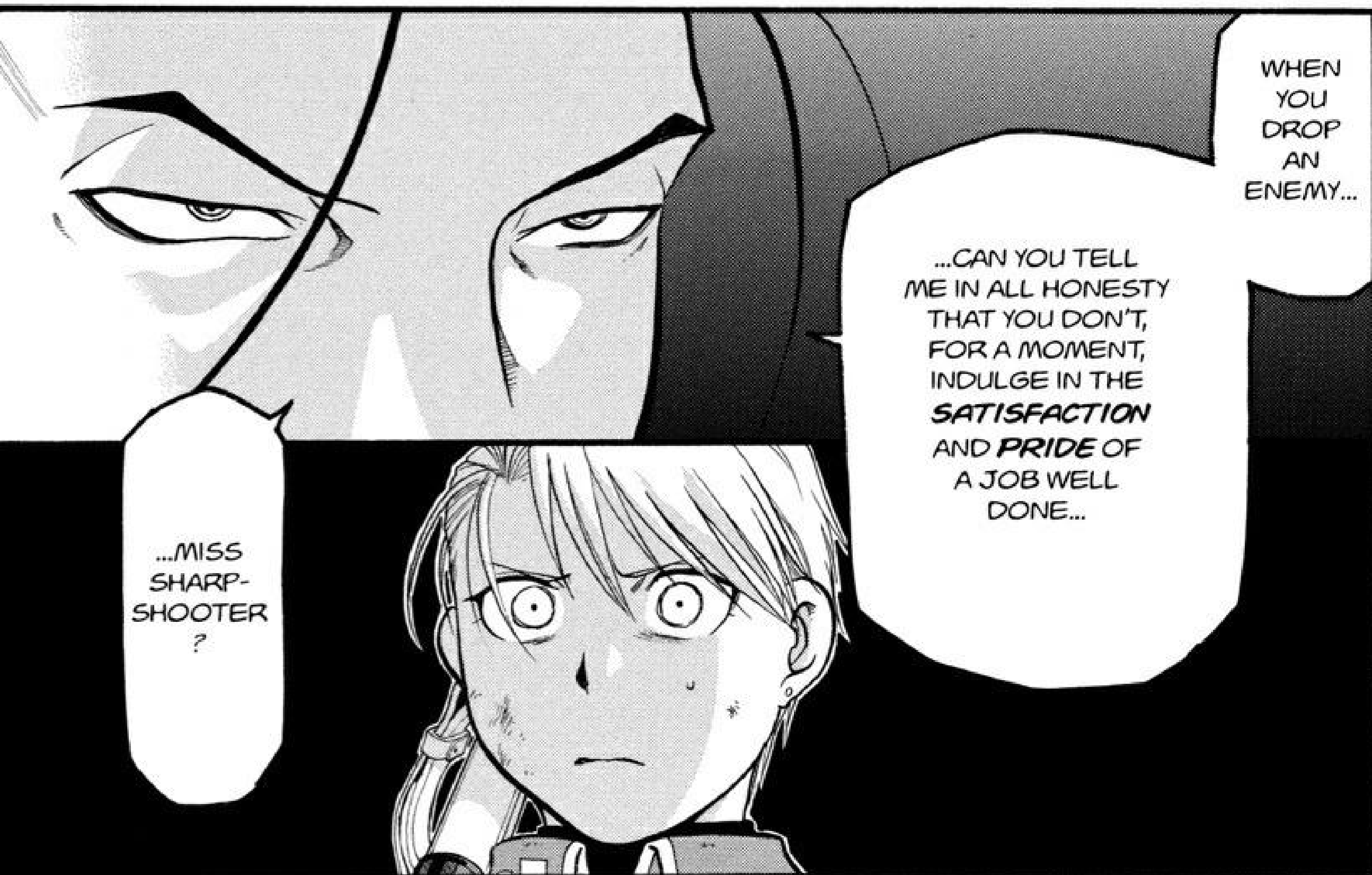
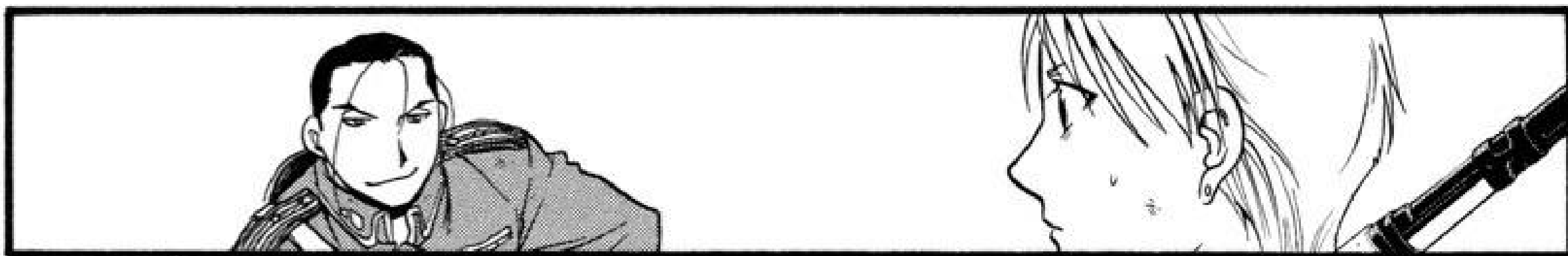
WHY ARE
SOLDIERS—
WHO
SHOULD BE
PROTECTING
THE
POPULACE—
KILLING
THEM
INSTEAD?

"WHY"
?

BECAUSE
THAT'S
THE DUTY
OF A
STATE
ALCHEMIST.

BECAUSE
THOSE ARE
THE
ORDERS
WE WERE
GIVEN.





...MISS
SHARP-
SHOOTER
?

...CAN YOU TELL
ME IN ALL HONESTY
THAT YOU DON'T,
FOR A MOMENT,
INDULGE IN THE
SATISFACTION
AND **PRIDE** OF
A JOB WELL
DONE...

WHEN
YOU
DROP
AN
ENEMY...



ALWAYS
LOOKING
FOR SOME
WAY TO
RATIONALIZE
YOUR ROLE
ON THE
BATTLEFIELD...

FROM
MY PER-
SPECTIVE,
YOU LOT
ARE MUCH
HARDER TO
UNDER-
STAND.



THAT'S
ENOUGH
!!

GRAB





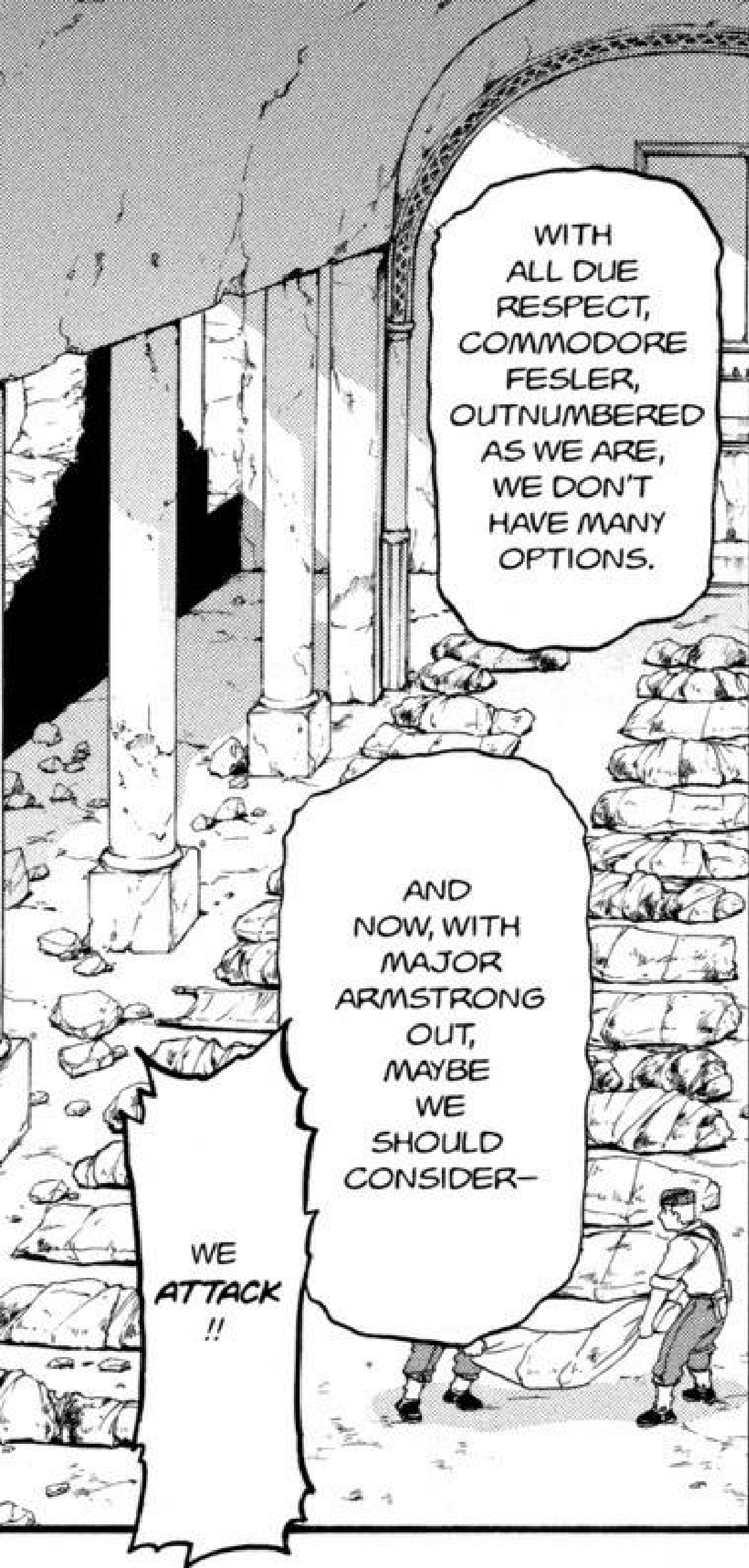


THAT'S ENOUGH !!



FIGHT !!







I DON'T LIKE THIS.

HE CONSIDERS US SOLDIERS **PAWNS** TO BE **SACRIFICED.**



THAT'S WHY FESLER IS GETTING IMPATIENT.

APPARENTLY, COLONEL MOSQUITO HAS ALREADY FINISHED MURDERING ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE GUNJA PROVINCE AND IS MOVING ON TO HIS NEXT TARGET.

NO. HE JUST WANTS INSTANT VICTORY FOR **HIMSELF.**



HRM!



LOOM



THE GRAN SQUAD HAS ARRIVED, SIR!!



LOOKS LIKE THE COMMODORE'S RUNNING OUT OF CANNON FODDER.



SH O O P

I'LL SMASH THROUGH THEIR LINES.

THE REST OF YOU, KEEP YOUR DISTANCE AND FOLLOW ME.



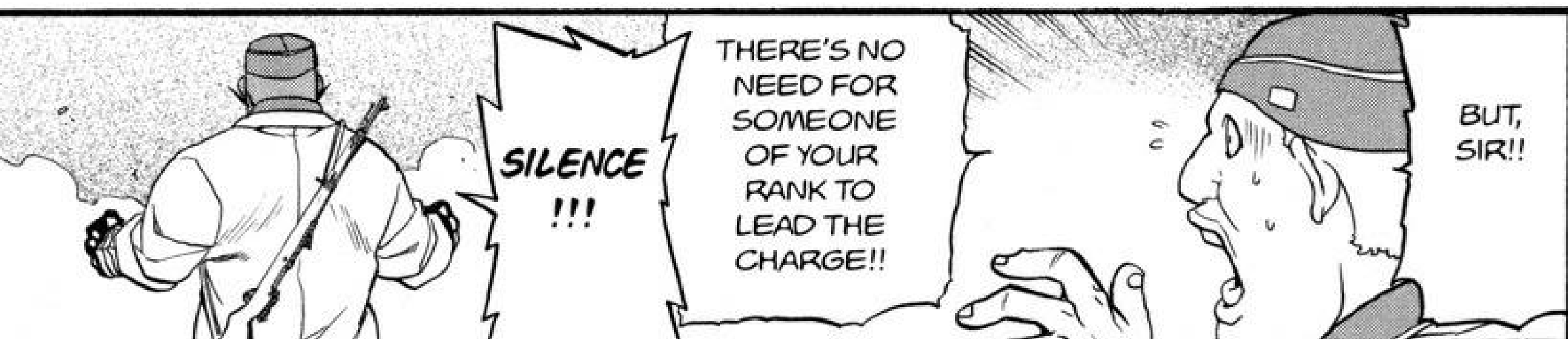
THAT MUST BE WHY I WAS CALLED IN.

SO, WHERE ARE THE ISH-BALANS?

STRIDE

STRIDE

STRIDE



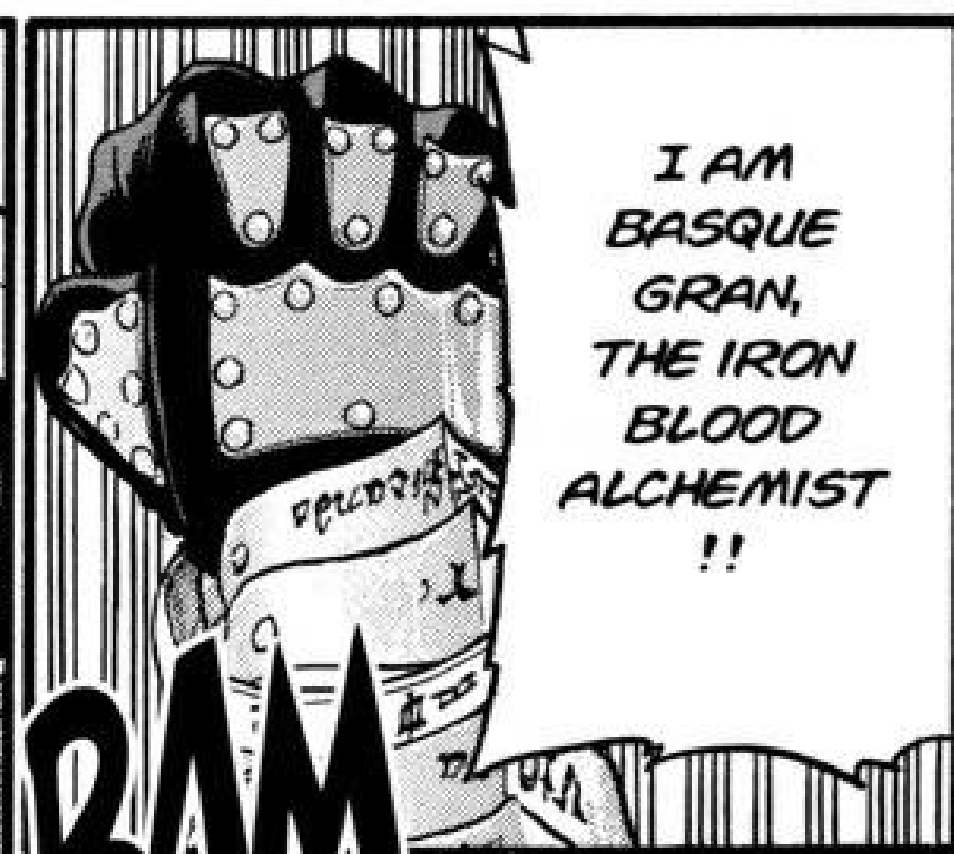
BUT, SIR!!

THERE'S NO NEED FOR SOMEONE OF YOUR RANK TO LEAD THE CHARGE!!

SILENCE !!!



IF I DON'T LEAD THE ATTACK, WHO WILL ???



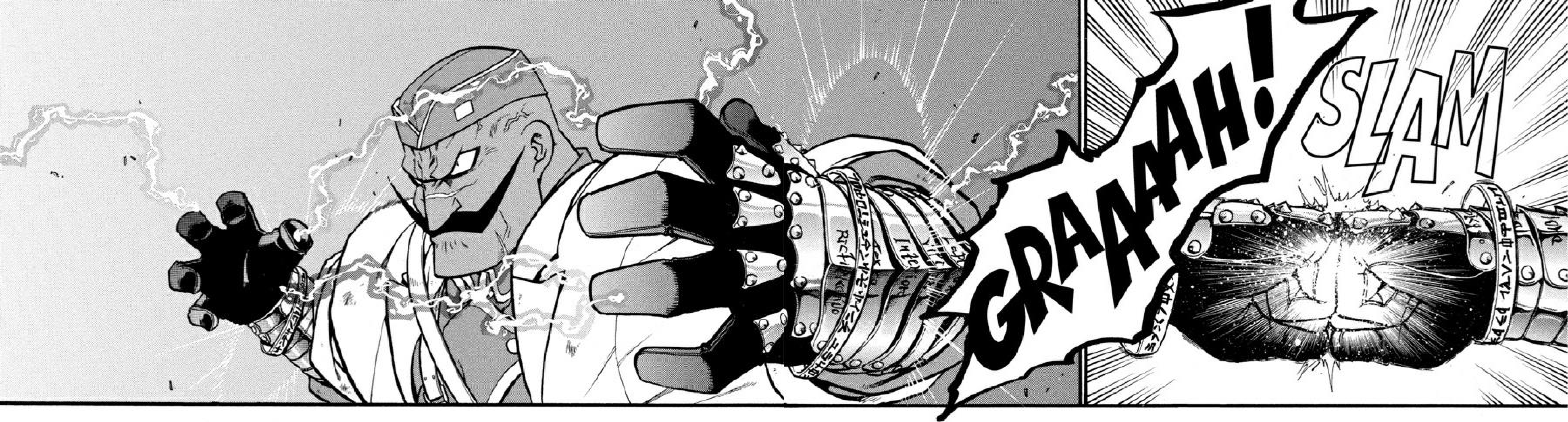
I AM BASQUE GRAN, THE IRON BLOOD ALCHEMIST !!



IRON AND BLOOD !!

MIGHT AND MAN-POWER !!!

BAM







THM

OH GREAT LORD, CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE...

GRANT US PEACE AND SALVATION.

KRAK

BOOM

BLAM

BAM

THM

THM

BAM

THM

THM

BOOM

KRAK

BAM

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF !!

WHEEZE

I DON'T WANT TO DIE.

I DON'T WANT TO DIE.

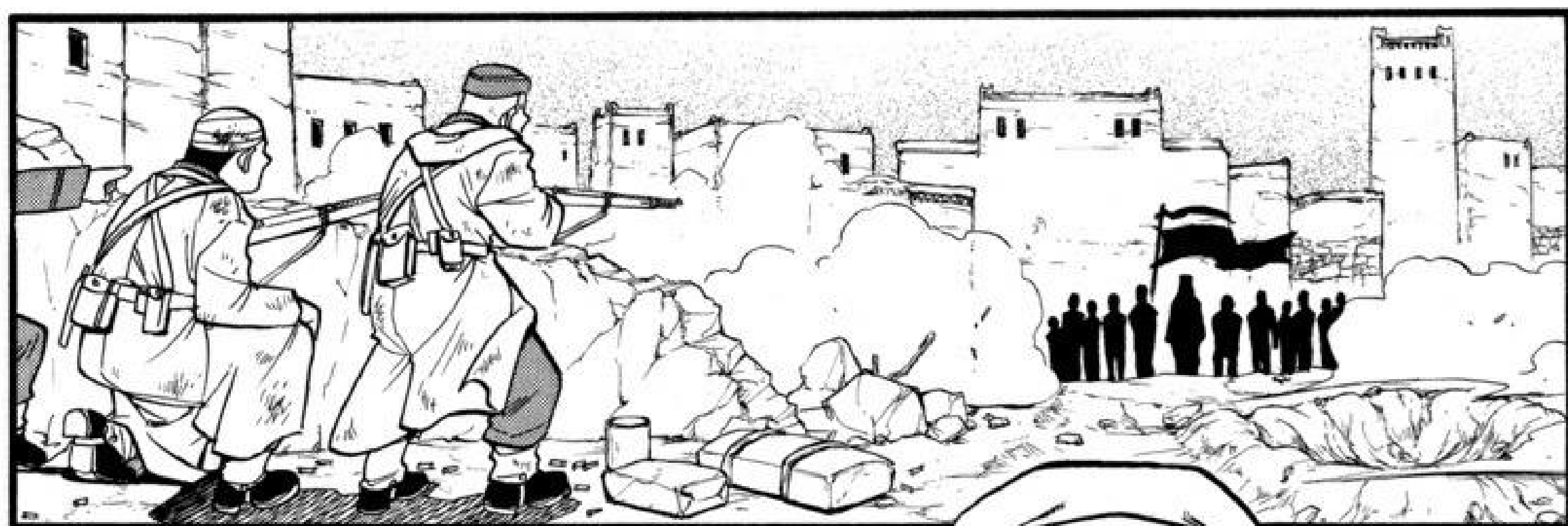
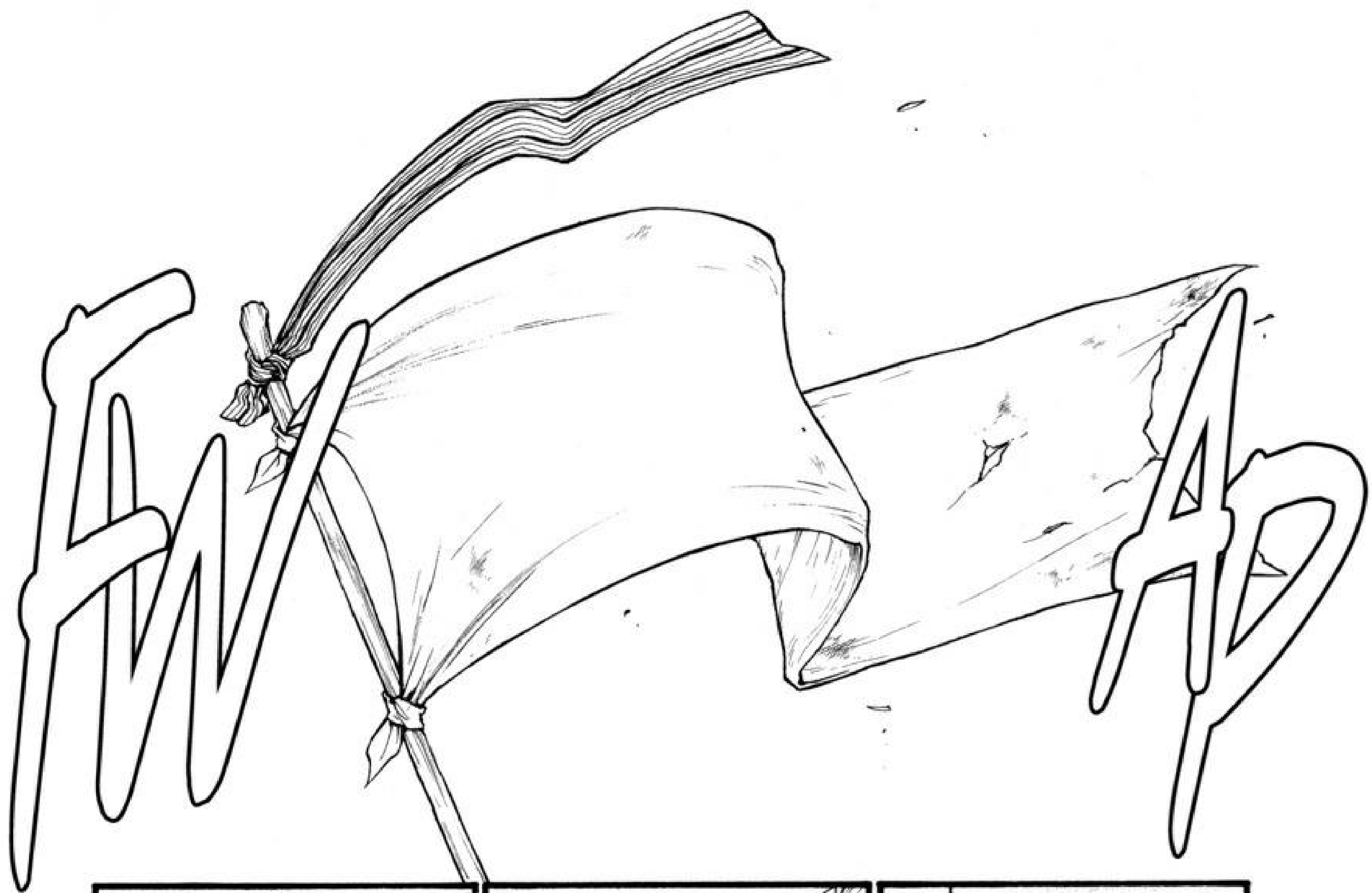
THM

THOOM
BLAM

WHEEZE

BOOM

BOOM





YES.

YOU'RE
SUPREME
CLERIC,
LOGUE
LOWE!

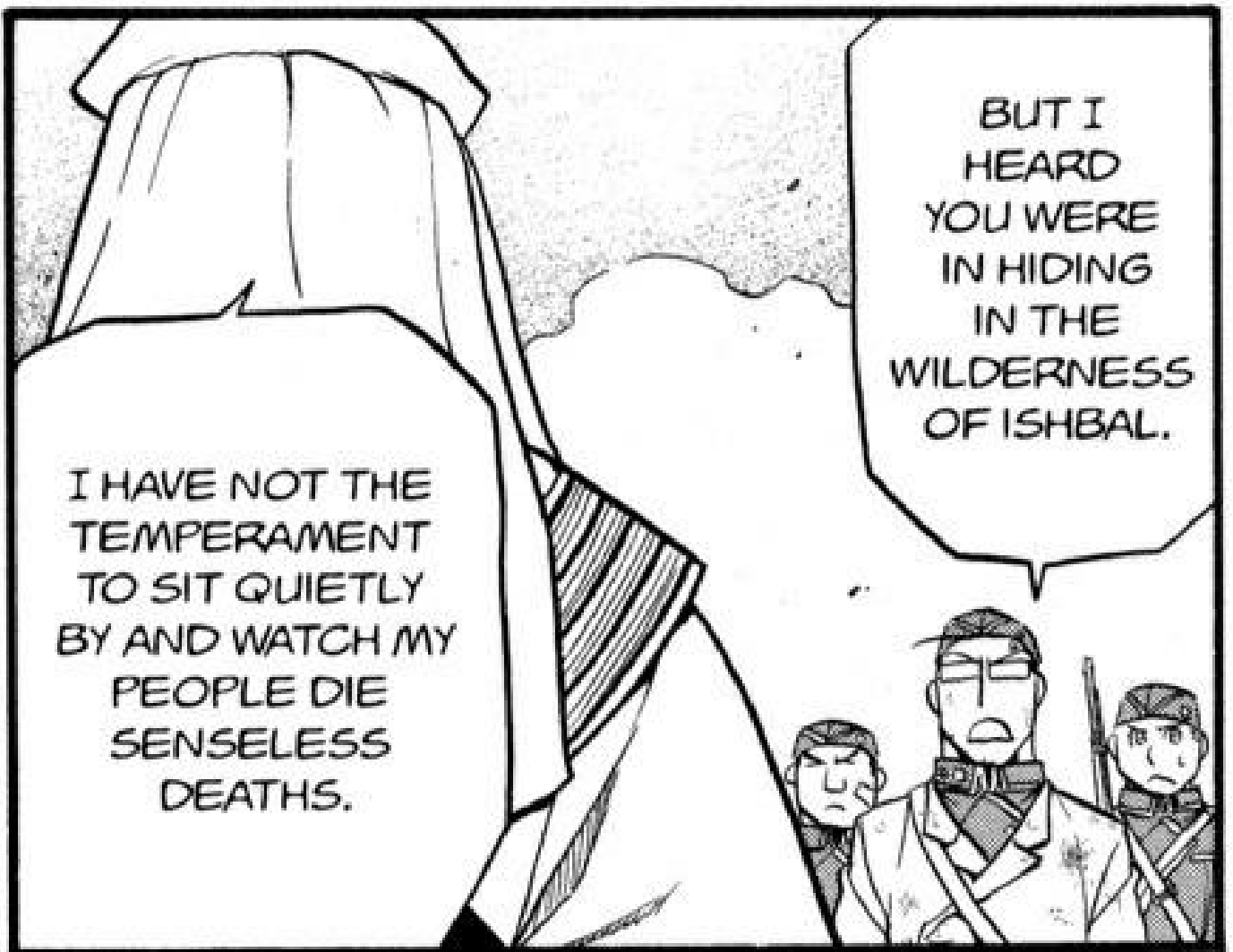


I
DON'T
BELIEVE
IT...



WHAT
?!

I
WISH
TO
SPEAK
TO
KING
BRADLEY.



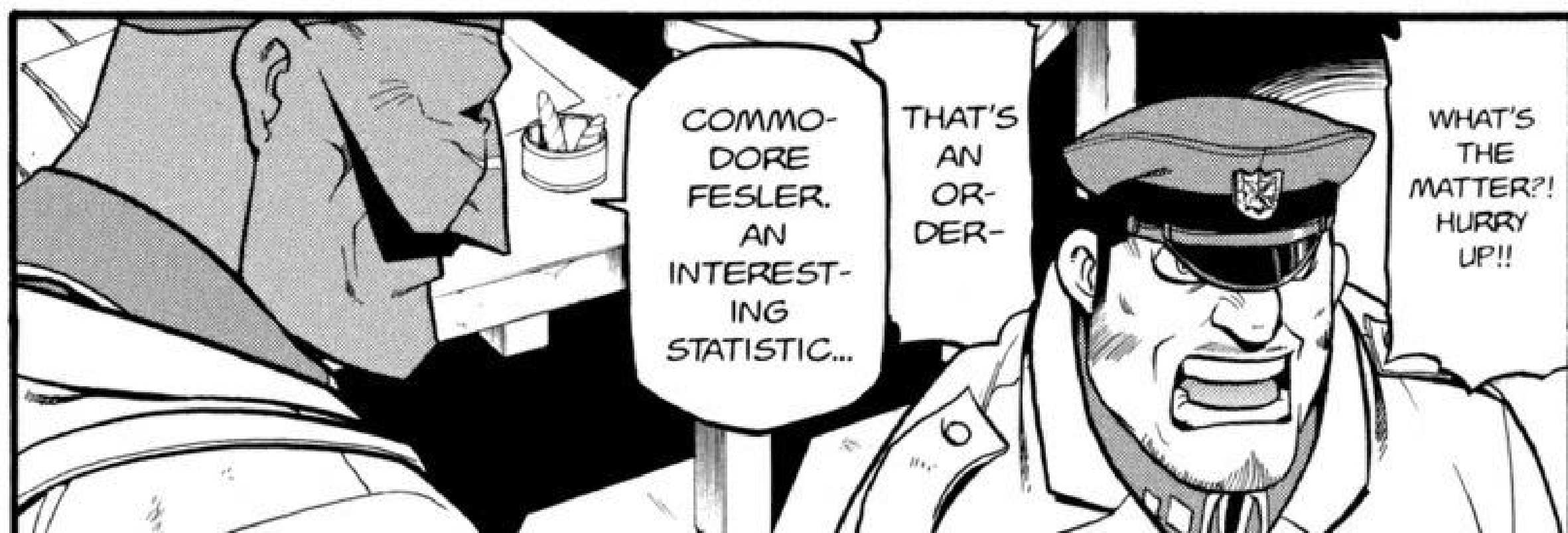
I HAVE NOT THE
TEMPERAMENT
TO SIT QUIETLY
BY AND WATCH MY
PEOPLE DIE
SENSELESS
DEATHS.

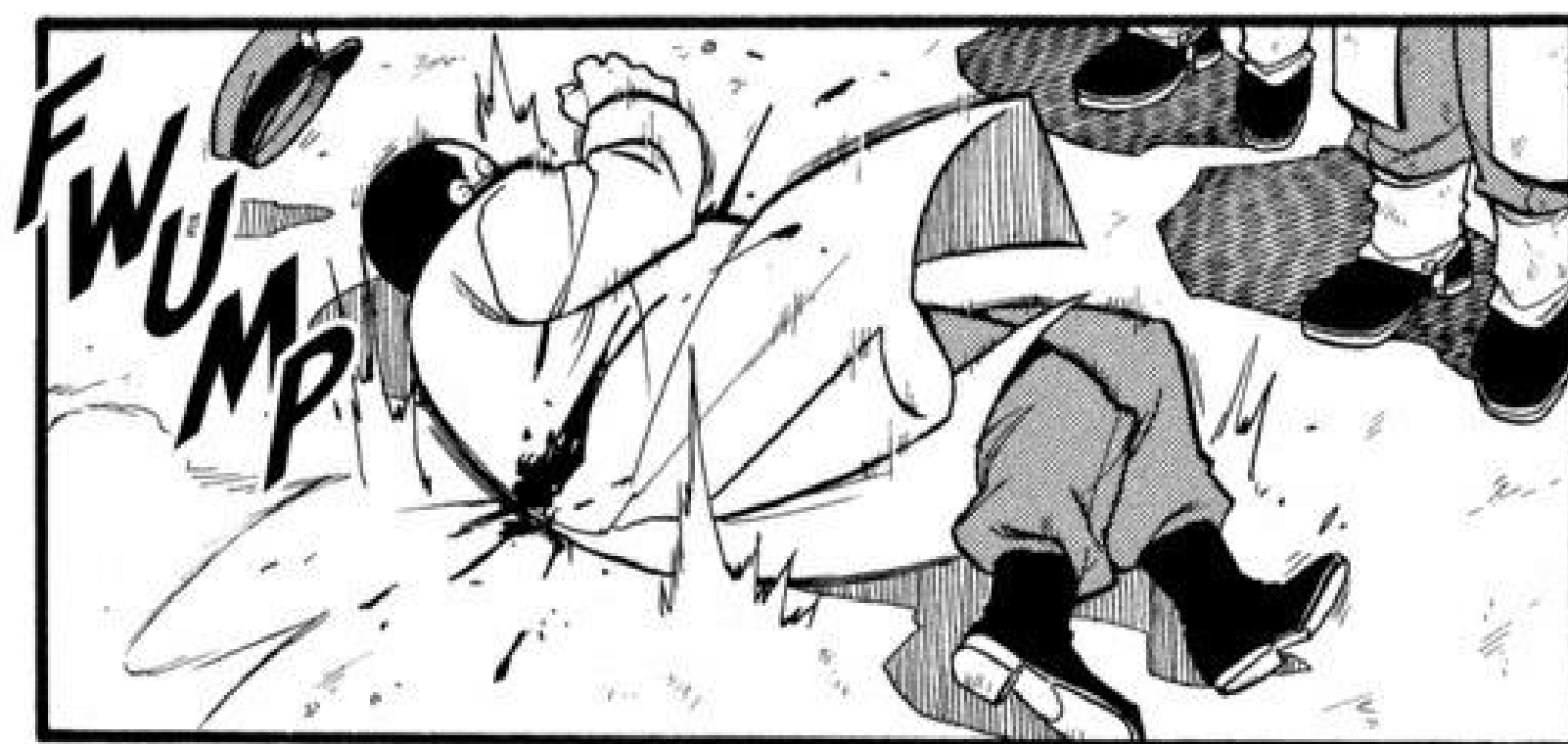
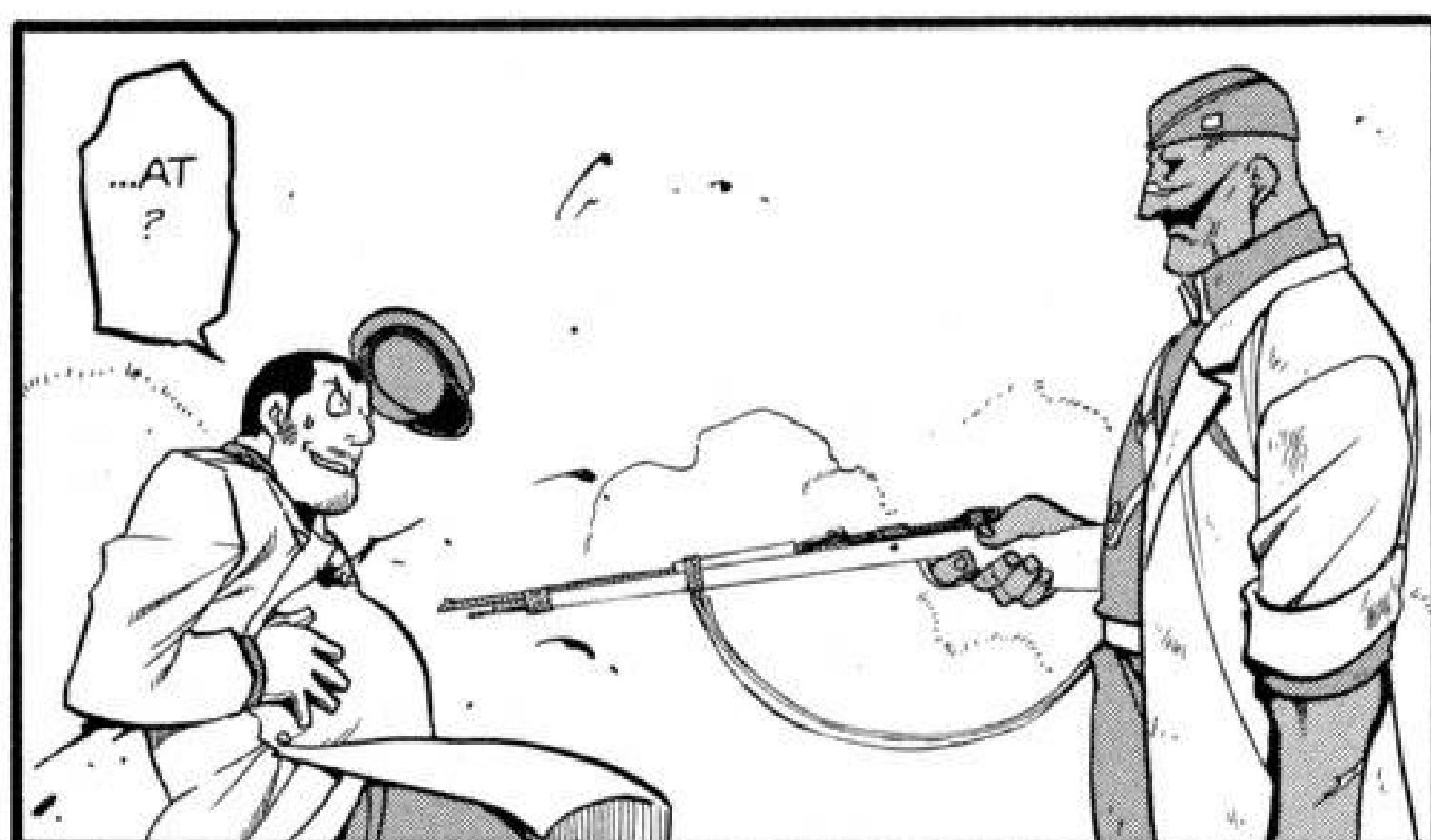
BUT I
HEARD
YOU WERE
IN HIDING
IN THE
WILDERNESS
OF ISHBAL.



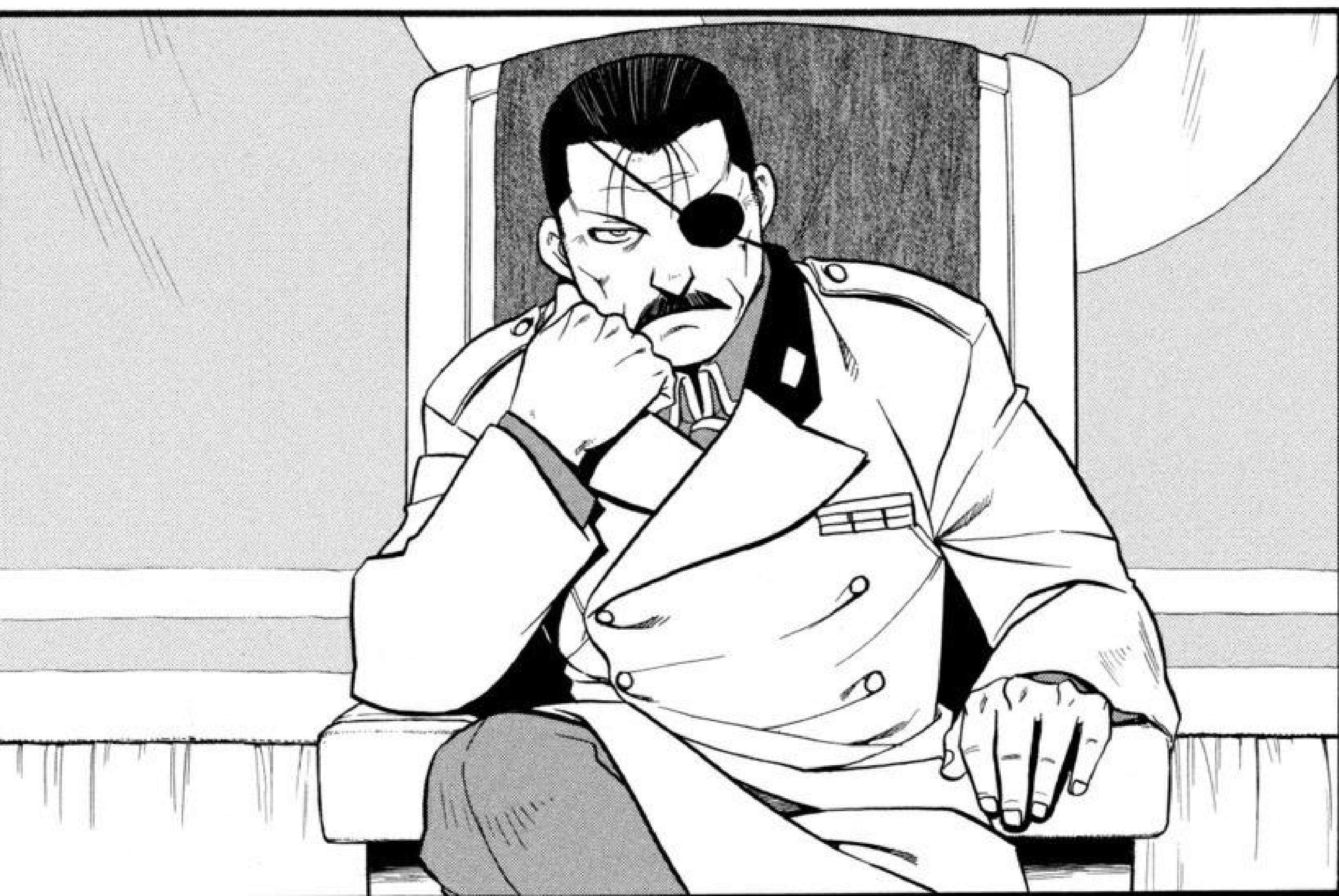
I OFFER HIM
MY LIFE IN
EXCHANGE FOR
THE LIVES OF
THE SURVIVING
ISHBALANS.

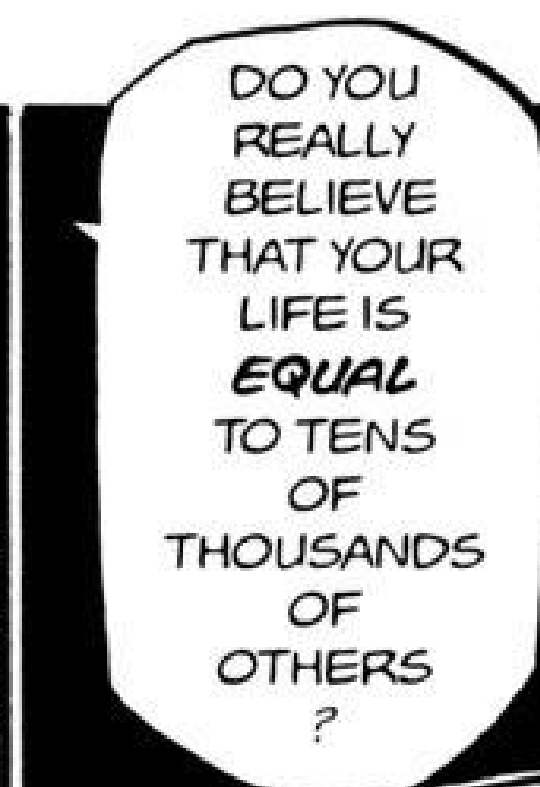
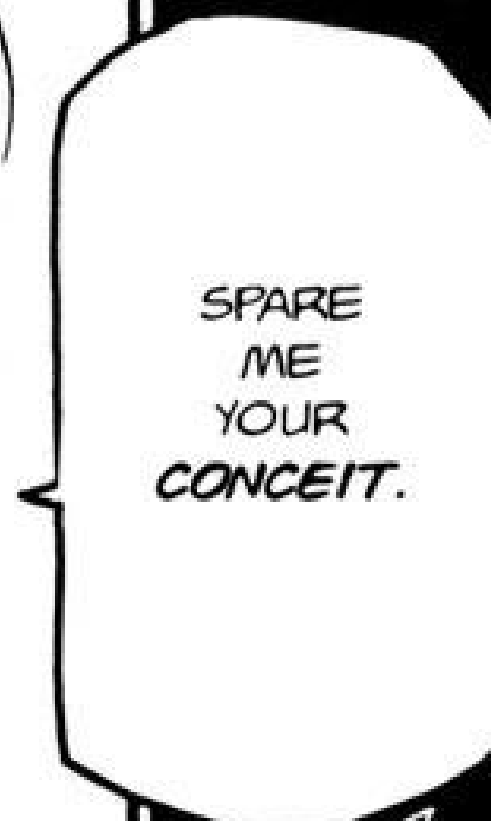
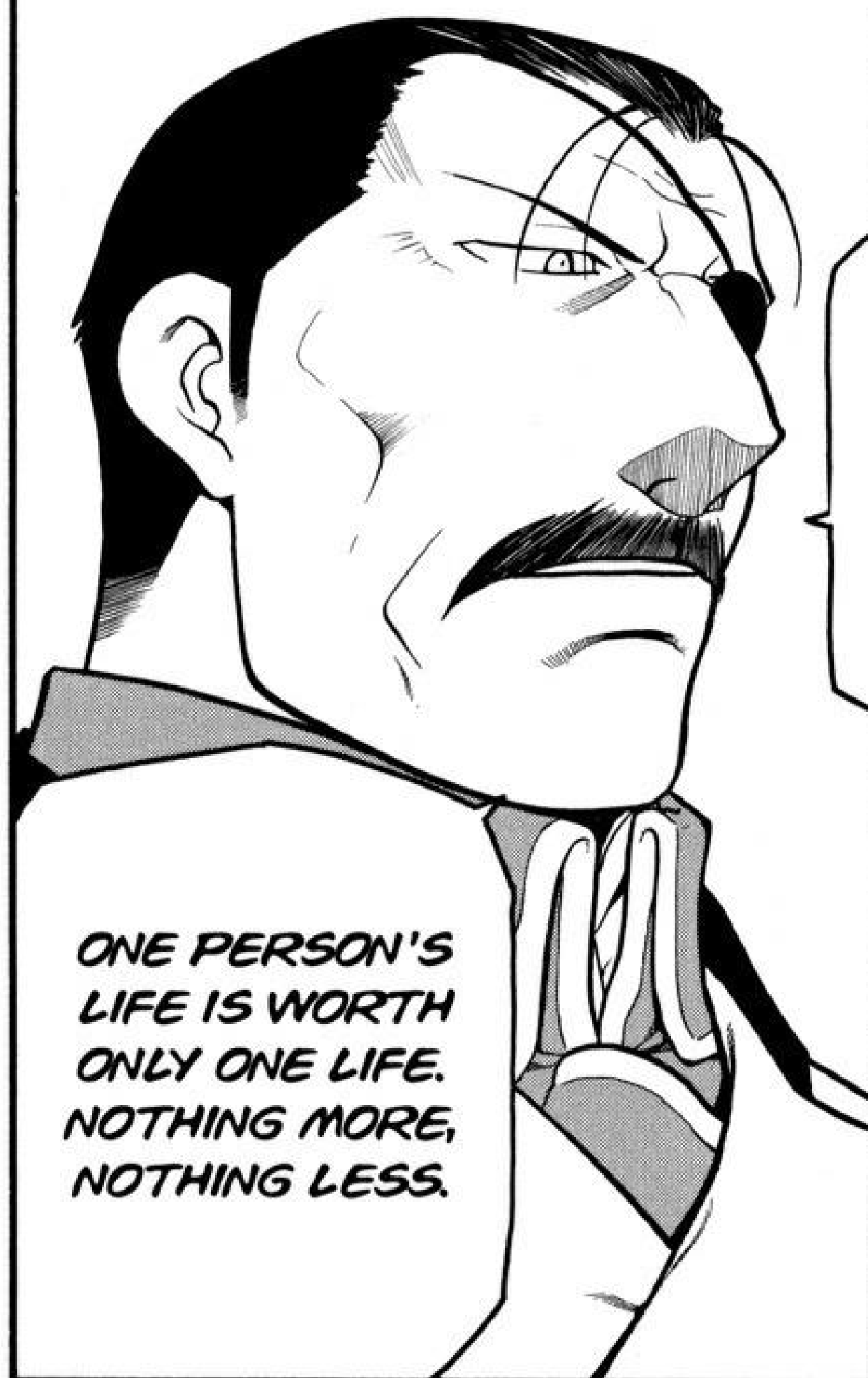








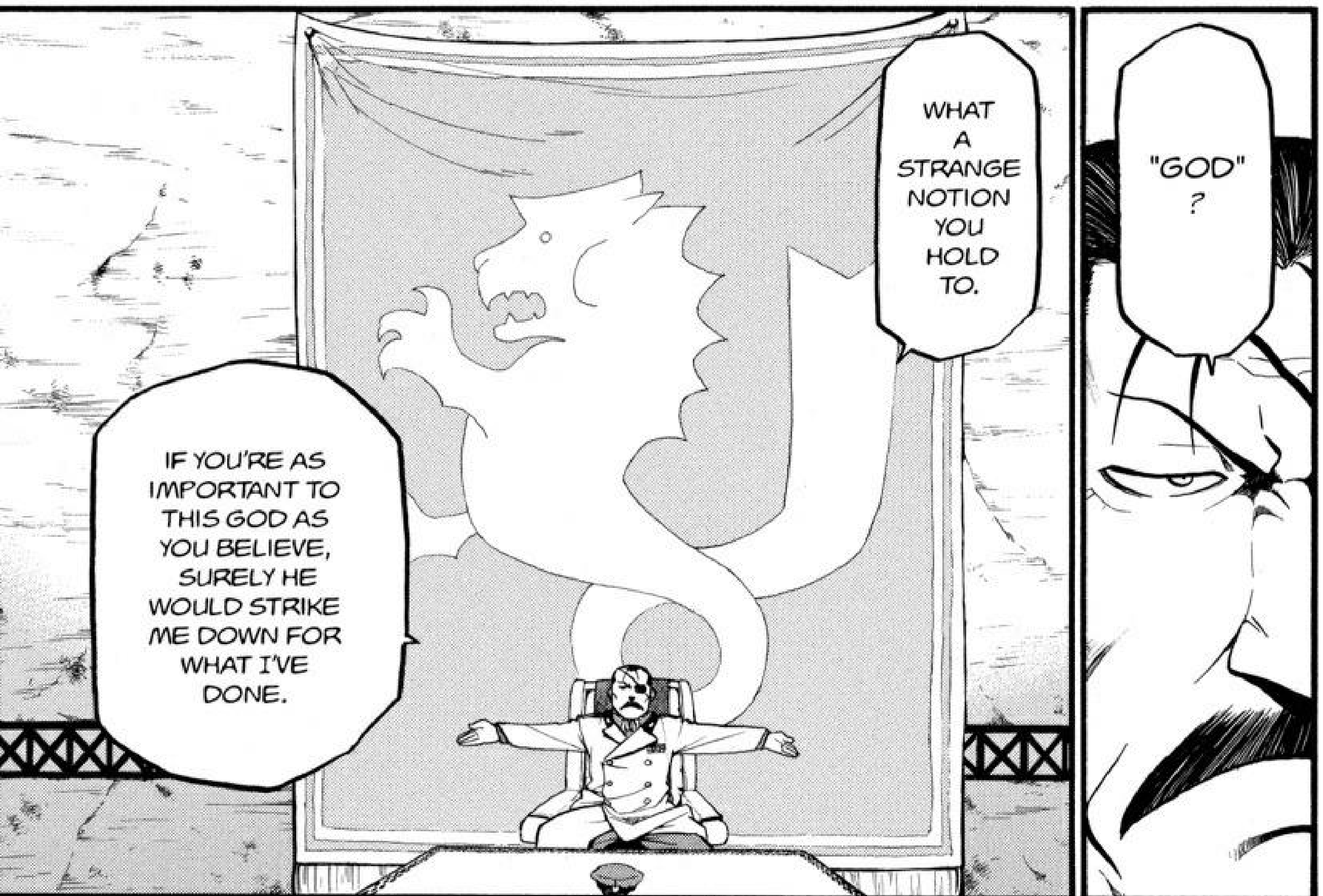






GOD
WILL
STRIKE
YOU
DOWN
FOR
THIS
!!

YOU'RE...
INHUMAN
!!



IF YOU'RE AS
IMPORTANT TO
THIS GOD AS
YOU BELIEVE,
SURELY HE
WOULD STRIKE
ME DOWN FOR
WHAT I'VE
DONE.

WHAT
A
STRANGE
NOTION
YOU
HOLD
TO.

"GOD"
?



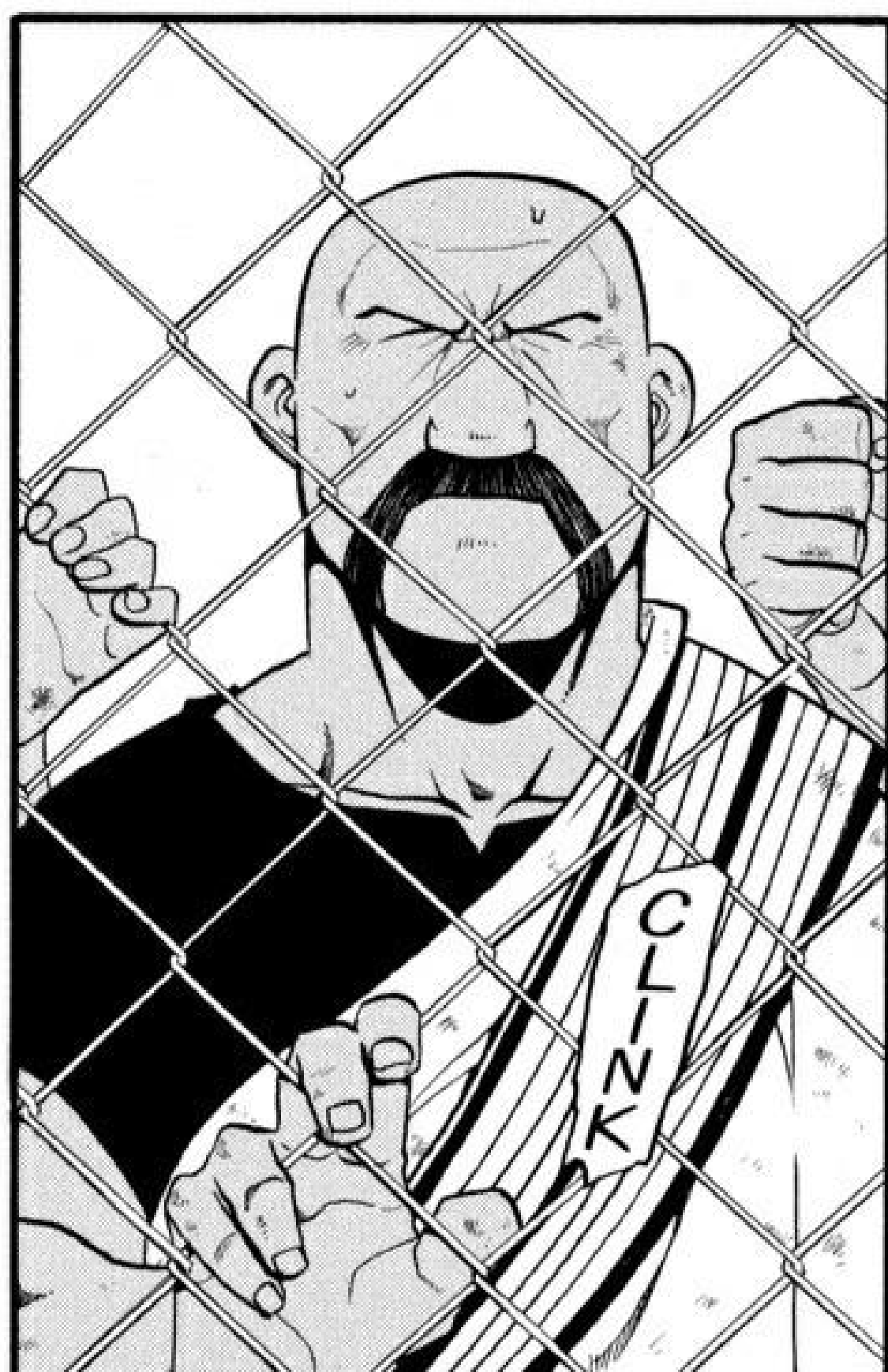
WHAT
IS
"GOD,"
ANY-
WAY
?

WHEN AND
WHERE IS
HE
PLANNING
TO SHOW
UP? I'D LIKE
TO MEET
HIM!

YOU
ISHBALANS
ARE ABOUT
TO BE WIPED
OUT... WELL?
WHY HASN'T
YOUR GOD
STEPPED
IN TO
INTERVENE?









AERUGONIAN
ANIMALS!!
ARE YOU
GOING TO
JUST STAND
THERE AND
WATCH US
DIE!?

YOU THINK
YOU CAN
JUST USE
US AND
THROW US
AWAY!?



THEY GAVE
WEAPONS TO
ISHBAL TO COMBAT
THE AMESTRIAN
MILITARY, YET
WHEN WE NEED
THEM MOST, THEY
TURN THEIR BACK
ON US.



...WE
WILL
SURVIVE—
NO
MATTER
WHAT
!!!

EVEN IF
THE ENTIRE
WORLD
TURNS ITS
BACK ON
ISHBAL...



DAMN
YOU
!

WE
WILL
NEVER
FORGET
THIS
HUMILIA-
TION!



GWUH

GWUH

WHY ARE
THERE
SO MANY
CHILDREN
?!?



WHY
?!?



I
WON'T
LET
YOU
DIE!!

DON'T
DIE
ON
ME!



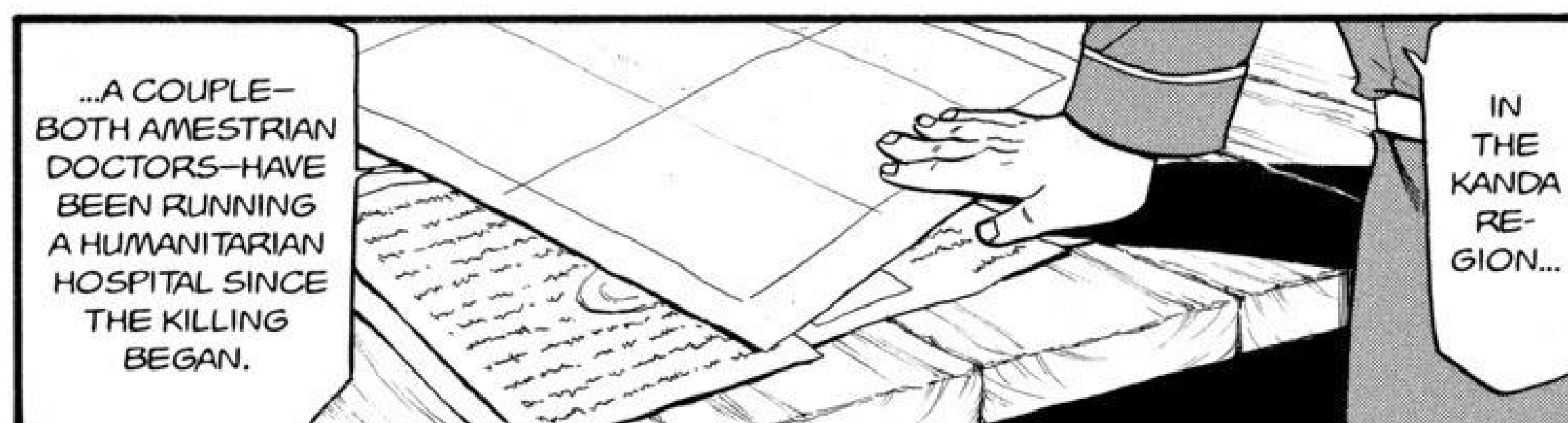
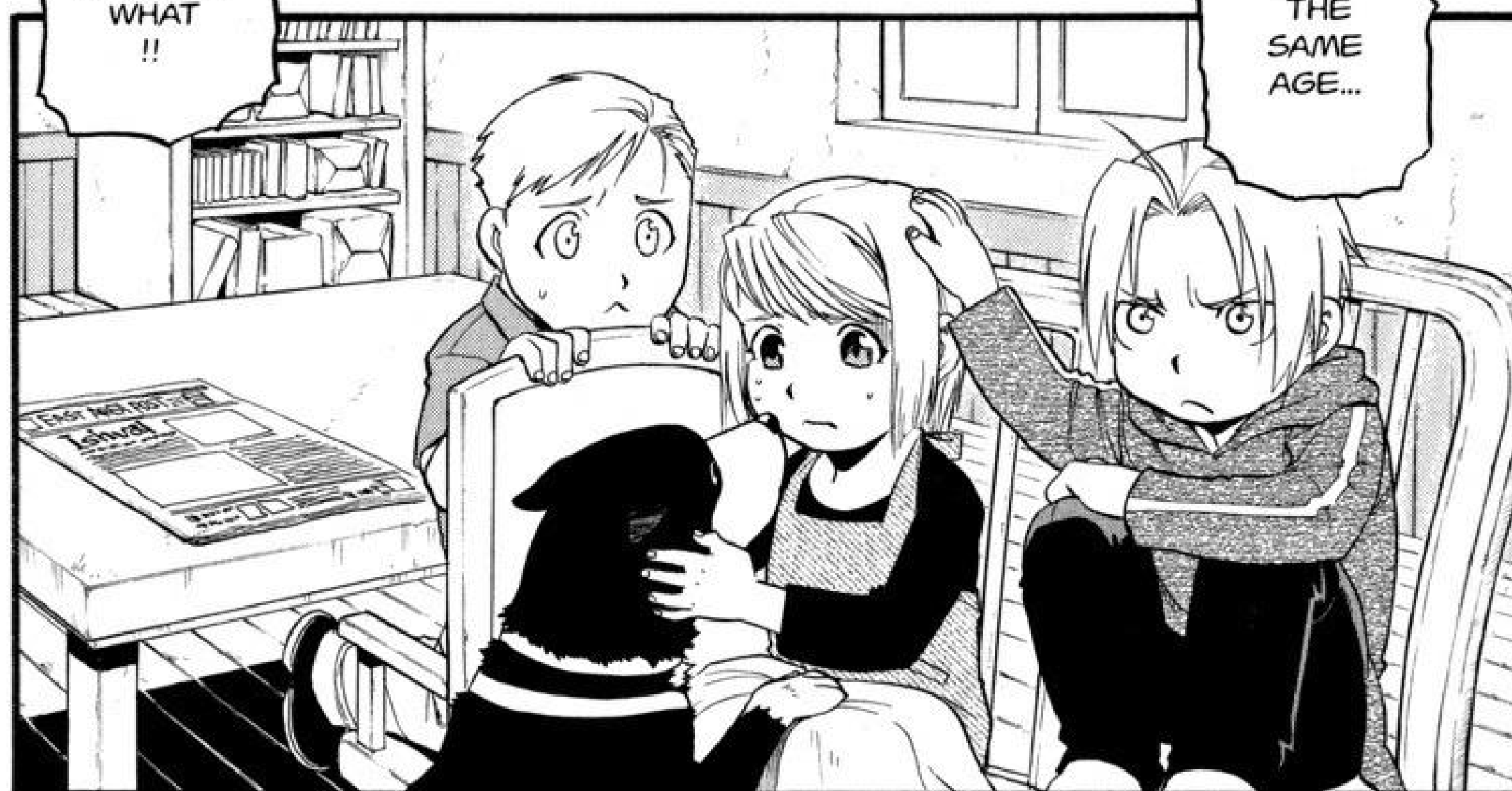
THMP

I
WON'T
LET
YOU
DIE,
NO
MATTER
WHAT
!!

WIPE

THIS
IS
TOO
MUCH
!

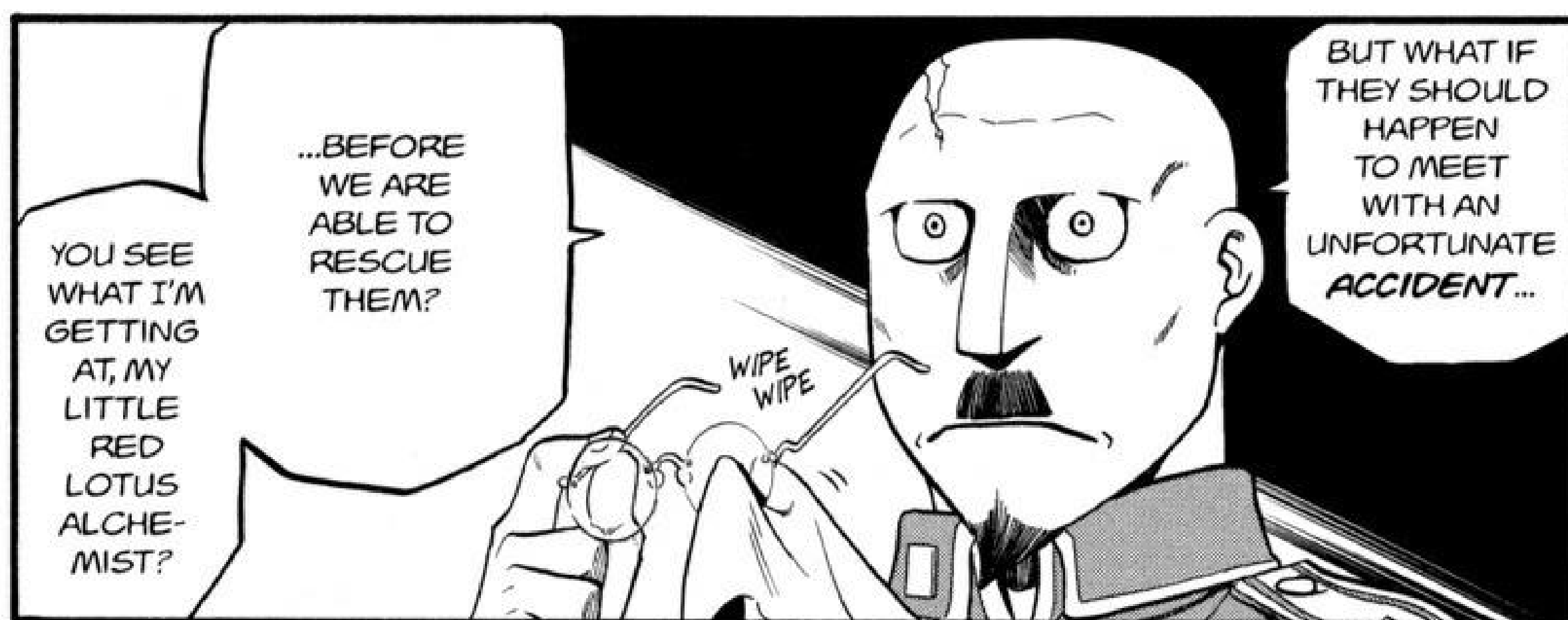
I
HAVE
A
DAUGHTER
ABOUT
THE
SAME
AGE...



...A COUPLE—
BOTH AMESTRIAN
DOCTORS—HAVE
BEEN RUNNING
A HUMANITARIAN
HOSPITAL SINCE
THE KILLING
BEGAN.

IN
THE
KANDA
RE-
GION...







THE
RIGHT
ARM
DECON-
STRUCTS...

...AND
THE LEFT
ARM
RECON-
STRUCTS.

THE
BASICS
OF
ALCHEMY
ARE
ANALYSIS,
**DECON-
STRUCTION,**
AND
**RECON-
STRUCTION.**



PLEASE,
STOP
!

THE
AMES-
TRIAN
MILI-
TARY
IS...



I
DON'T
CARE
ABOUT
THAT
!!

I STUDIED
THE
ALCHEMY
FROM THE
EAST AND
APPLIED
IT MY OWN
WAY-



WHAT
!?

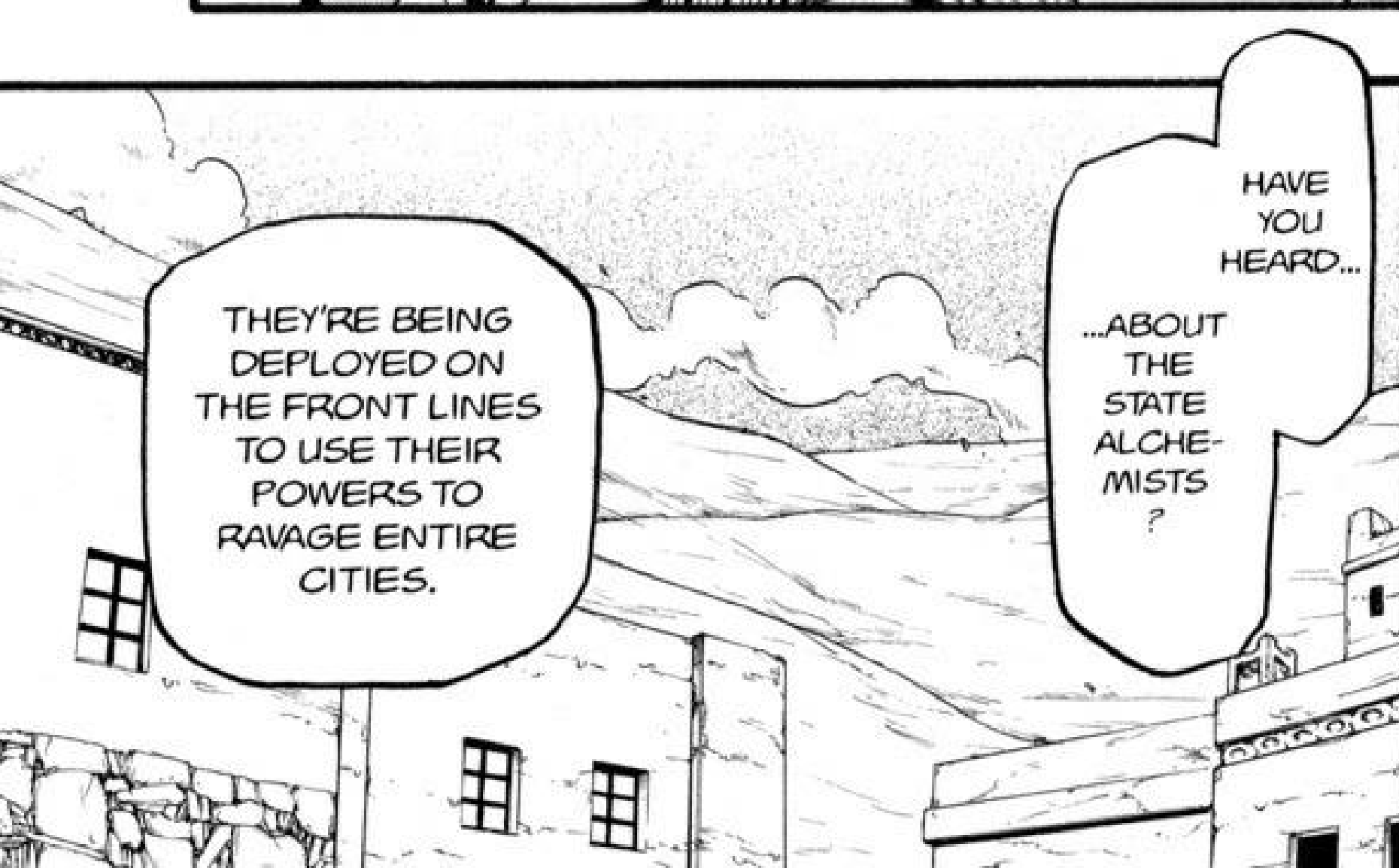
YOUR
BROTHER'S
RESEARCH
MAY BE
ISHBAL'S
SALVATION.



THIS
RESEARCH
IS
SACRILEGE
AND
AGAINST THE
WILL OF
GOD!!

WHY
DO
YOU
HOLD
ME
BACK
!?

I'M
BEG-
GING
YOU-
CALM
DOWN.



THEY'RE BEING
DEPLOYED ON
THE FRONT LINES
TO USE THEIR
POWERS TO
RAVAGE ENTIRE
CITIES.

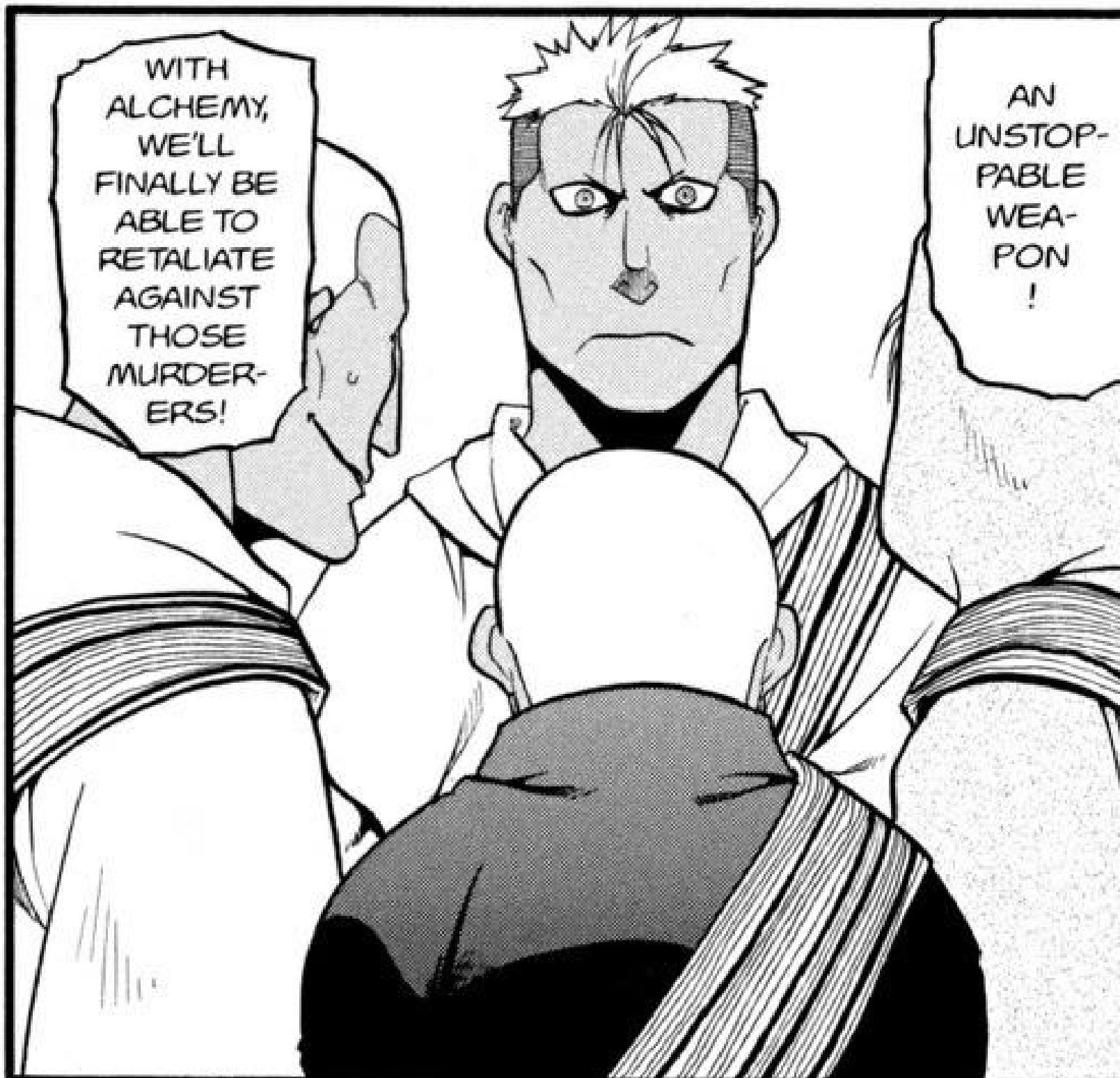
...ABOUT
THE
STATE
ALCHE-
MISTS
?

HAVE
YOU
HEARD...



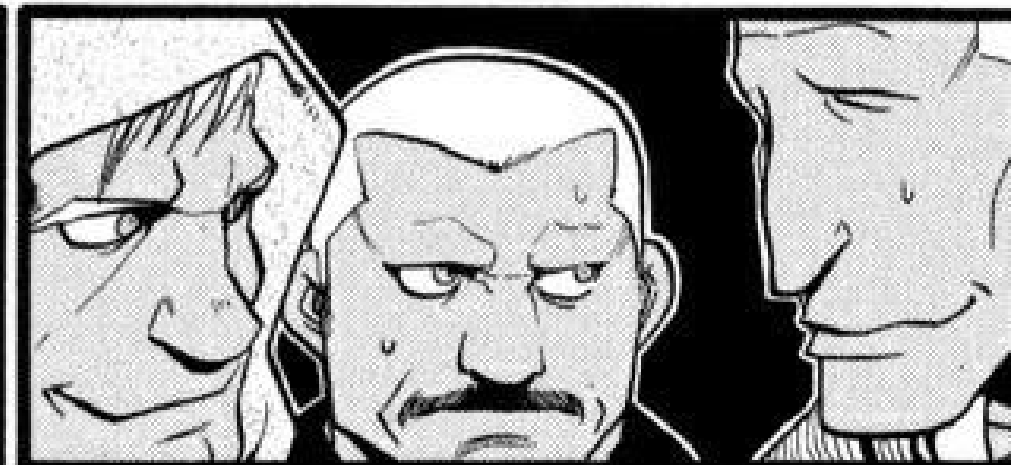
WHAT DOES
ANY OF
THIS HAVE
TO DO
WITH MY
OLDER
BROTHER
!?

AND NOW
THEY'RE
ON THEIR
WAY TO
THIS
CITY!

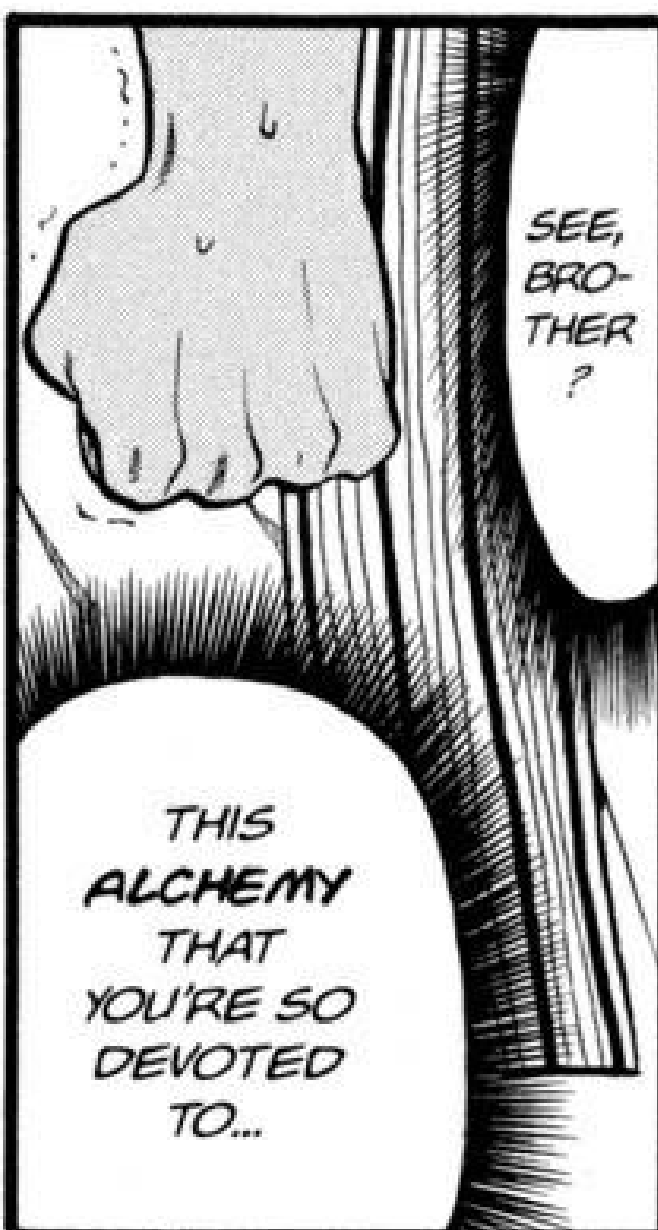


WITH
ALCHEMY,
WE'LL
FINALLY BE
ABLE TO
RETALIATE
AGAINST
THOSE
MURDER-
ERS!

AN
UNSTOP-
PABLE
WEA-
PON
!



THROUGH HIS
RESEARCH, HE MAY
BE ABLE TO
DISCOVER A POWER
THAT'S EVEN
GREATER THAN THE
STATE ALCHEMISTS'-
A POWER WHICH
COULD BE USED
TO DEFEAT THE
AMESTRIAN
MILITARY!



SEE,
BRO-
THER
?

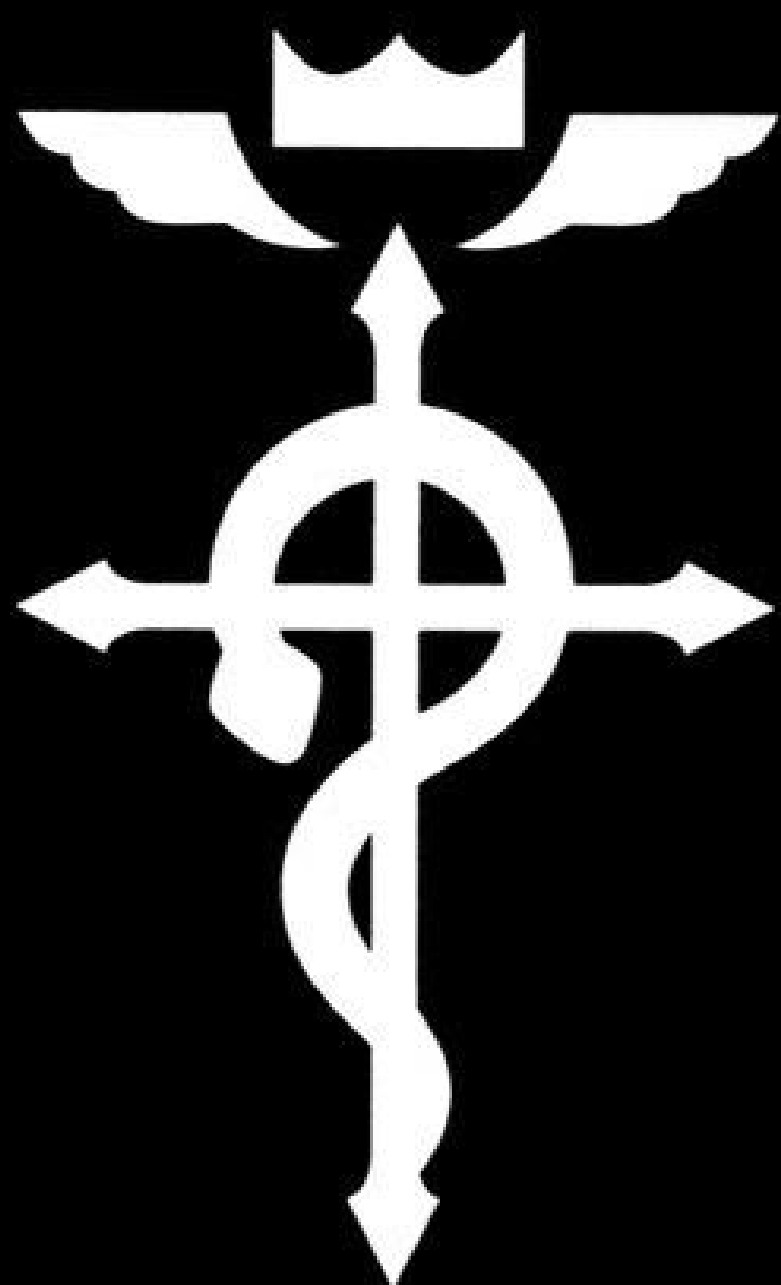
THIS
ALCHEMY
THAT
YOU'RE SO
DEVOTED
TO...



WE WILL
PAY THEM
BACK WITH
BLOOD!!







FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

